

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 93-102 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 93 recites the limitation "the sensor" in lines 6, 11, and 12-13. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 97 recites the limitation "the camera" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 98 recites the limitation "the sensor" in lines 7, 15, and 17. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 102 recites the limitation "the camera" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

As for claims 94-97 and 99-102, which claim dependency from independent claims 93 and 98, these claims are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph for insufficient antecedent basis per the rationale of claims 93 and 98.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

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the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 93, 95, 97, 98, 100, and 102-106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beheshti et al (US Patent #5,995,946) in view of Venkatraman et al (US Patent #6,139,177).

Claim 93 discloses an apparatus comprising: at least one sensor configured to monitor environmental conditions ambient to rack mounted computer equipment, the at least one sensor selected from a group consisting of a temperature sensor and a humidity sensor; a housing configured for mounting to an equipment rack, the housing including: a processor responsive to the sensor; at least one network interface responsive to the processor and configured for communication with a distributed computing network; a power control interface configured to access power management equipment; a web server configured to provide a web page associated with information derived from the sensor; an email module configured to send notification of events associated with the sensor; a simple network management protocol module configured

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to communicate with computer equipment external to the housing; and a modem responsive to the processor and configured to access a telephone line. Beheshti et al teaches sensors monitor environmental conditions (figure 1 and column 7, lines 53-59), a microprocessor controls the device (column 7, lines 8-28), the device includes a network interface (column 5, line 54 - column 6, line 17), the device includes a power card interface (column 5, line 54 - column 6, line 17), the devices uses SNMP to send messages (column 7, lines 29-42), and the devices includes a modem (column 5, line 54 - column 6, line 17). It fails to teach a web server configured to provide a web page associated with information derived from the sensor, an email module configured to send notification of events associated with the sensor. Venkatraman et al teaches the device's data is displayed on a web page (column 4, lines 4-10), and the notifier sends an email as an event notification (column 3, lines 54-64).

Beheshti et al and Venkatraman et al are analogous art because they are both related to event notifications.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the web page display and email notification features in Venkatraman et al with the system in Beheshti et al because costs are reduced by having the web functionality embedded in the device (Venkatraman, column 2, lines 12-18).

Claim 95 discloses the apparatus of claim 93, further comprising a back-up power source configured to provide back-up power to the processor. Beheshti et al

further teaches the device includes a battery back up for the processor (column 7, lines 8-28).

Claim 97 discloses the apparatus of claim 93, wherein the notification includes an image from the camera. Venkatraman et al further teaches images are included on the notification page (column 4, lines 4-10).

Claim 98 discloses an apparatus comprising: at least one sensor configured to monitor environmental conditions ambient to rack mounted computer equipment, the at least one sensor selected from a group consisting of a temperature sensor and a humidity sensor; a housing configured for mounting to an equipment rack, the housing including: a plurality of processors, at least one processor of the plurality of processors responsive to the sensor; at least one network interface responsive to at least one processor of the plurality of processors and configured for communication with a distributed computing network; a power control interface responsive to at least one processor of the plurality of processors and configured to access power management equipment; a web server responsive to at least one processor of the plurality of processors and configured to provide a web page associated with information derived from the sensor; an email module responsive to at least one processor of the plurality of processors and configured to send notification of events associated with the sensor; a simple network management protocol module responsive to at least one processor of the plurality of processors and configured to communicate with computer equipment external to the housing; and a modem responsive to at least one processor of the plurality of processors and configured to access a telephone line. Beheshti et al

teaches sensors monitor environmental conditions (figure 1 and column 7, lines 53-59), a microprocessor controls the device (column 7, lines 8-28), the device includes a network interface (column 5, line 54 - column 6, line 17), the device includes a power card interface (column 5, line 54 - column 6, line 17), the devices uses SNMP to send messages (column 7, lines 29-42), and the devices includes a modem (column 5, line 54 - column 6, line 17). It fails to teach a web server responsive to at least one processor of the plurality of processors and configured to provide a web page associated with information derived from the sensor, and an email module responsive to at least one processor of the plurality of processors and configured to send notification of events associated with the sensor. Venkatraman et al teaches the device's data is displayed on a web page (column 4, lines 4-10), and the notifier sends an email as an event notification (column 3, lines 54-64).

Beheshti et al and Venkatraman et al are analogous art because they are both related to event notifications.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the web page display and email notification features in Venkatraman et al with the system in Beheshti et al because costs are reduced by having the web functionality embedded in the device (Venkatraman, column 2, lines 12-18).

Claim 100 discloses the apparatus of claim 98, further comprising a back-up power source configured to provide back-up power to the plurality of processors.

Beheshti et al further teaches the device includes a battery back up for the processor (column 7, lines 8-28).

Claim 102 discloses the apparatus of claim 98, wherein the notification includes an image from the camera. Venkatraman et al further teaches images are included on the notification page (column 4, lines 4-10).

Claim 103 discloses an apparatus comprising: at least one sensor configured to monitor environmental conditions ambient to monitored computer equipment, the at least one sensor selected from a group consisting of a temperature sensor and a humidity sensor; a housing configured for mounting to an equipment rack, the housing including: a web server configured to provide a web page having information derived from the at least one sensor; an email module configured to send email; a simple network management protocol module configured to communicate using a simple network management protocol; a modem configured to access a telephone line and configured to selectively send data to a pager; at least one network interface configured to access a distributed computer network; and an alarm module responsive to the at least one sensor and configured to send an alarm notification, the alarm notification communicated by at least one of the email module, the simple network management protocol module, and the modem. Beheshti et al teaches sensors monitor environmental conditions (figure 1 and column 7, lines 53-59), the devices uses SNMP to send messages (column 7, lines 29-42), the device includes a modem (column 5, line 54 - column 6, line 17), the device includes a network interface (column 5, line 54 - column 6, line 17) and the device sends event notifications using SNMP (column 7,

lines 29-32). It fails to teach a web server configured to provide a web page having information derived from the at least one sensor, and an email module configured to send email. Venkatraman et al teaches the device's data is displayed on a web page (column 4, lines 4-10), and the notifier sends an email as an event notification (column 3, lines 54-64).

Beheshti et al and Venkatraman et al are analogous art because they are both related to event notifications.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the web page display and email notification features in Venkatraman et al with the system in Beheshti et al because costs are reduced by having the web functionality embedded in the device (Venkatraman, column 2, lines 12-18).

Claim 104 discloses the apparatus of claim 103, wherein the web server is configured to incorporate camera image data into the web page. Venkatraman et al further teaches images are included on the notification page (column 4, lines 4-10).

Claim 105 discloses the apparatus of claim 103, wherein the alarm notification is communicated by at least one of the email module, the simple network management protocol module, and the modem during a common time period. Beheshti et al further teaches the device sends the event notification when triggered by the appropriate method (column 7, line 53 – column 8, line 45).

Claim 106 discloses the apparatus of claim 103, wherein the alarm notification is communicated by at least one of the email module, the simple network management

protocol module, and the modem substantially simultaneously. Beheshti et al further teaches the device sends the event notification by an available connection (column 7, line 53 - column 8, line 45).

Claims 107, 110, 113, and 114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beheshti et al (US Patent #5,995,946) Venkatraman et al (US Patent #6,139,177) in view of Hunter et al (US Patent #6,363,422).

Claim 107 discloses an apparatus comprising: a housing configurable for mounting to an equipment rack, the housing including: a temperature sensor; a humidity sensor; an acoustic sensor; an airflow sensor; at least one external sensor interface configured to connect to an external sensor, the external sensor configured to monitor environmental conditions ambient to monitored computer equipment; a web server configured to provide a web page having information derived from at least one of the temperature sensor, the humidity sensor, the acoustic sensor, the air flow sensor, and the external sensor; a simple network management protocol module configured to communicate using a simple network management protocol; at least one network interface responsive to the simple network management protocol module and configured to access a distributed computer network; and an alarm module responsive to at least one of the temperature sensor, the humidity sensor, the acoustic sensor, the air flow sensor, and the external sensor and configured to send an alarm notification via the web server. Beheshti et al teaches the device has temperature and humidity sensors (column 7, line 53 – column 8, line 5), the device monitors external sensors (column 6, lines 18-38), the devices uses SNMP to send messages (column 7, lines 29-

42), the device includes a network interface (column 5, line 54 - column 6, line 17), and the device sends event notifications in response to a sensor (column 7, lines 29-32). It fails to teach an acoustic sensor, an airflow sensor, a web server configured to provide a web page having information derived from at least one of the temperature sensor, the humidity sensor, the acoustic sensor, the air flow sensor, and the external sensor; a simple network management protocol module configured to communicate using a simple network management protocol. Venkatraman et al teaches the device's data is displayed on a web page (column 4, lines 4-10).

Beheshti et al and Venkatraman et al are analogous art because they are both related to event notifications.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the web page display feature in Venkatraman et al with the system in Beheshti et al because costs are reduced by having the web functionality embedded in the device (Venkatraman, column 2, lines 12-18).

Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al teaches the limitations as recited above. It fails to teach an acoustic sensor and an airflow sensor. Hunter et al teaches having sensors to detect physical parameters and generate sensor signals representative of detected physical parameters (column 6, lines 6-31 and column 9, lines 20-61).

Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al and Hunter et al are analogous art because they are both related to remote device management.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the sensors in Hunter et al with the system in Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al because remote operations through the Internet for facilities management is provided (Hunter, column 1, lines 6-9, and column 3, lines 20-33).

Claim 108 discloses the apparatus of claim 107, further comprising an email module configured to send email. Venkatraman et al further teaches the notifier sends an email as an event notification (column 3, lines 54-64).

Claim 109 discloses the apparatus of claim 108, wherein the alarm module is configured to send an alarm notification via email. Venkatraman et al further teaches the event notification is sent through email (column 3, lines 54-64).

Claim 110 discloses the apparatus of claim 107, further comprising an interface configured to access an external camera. Hunter et al further teaches monitoring with a camera (column 9, lines 42-61).

Claim 111 discloses the apparatus of claim 110, wherein the alarm notification includes an image from the external camera. Venkatraman et al further teaches images may be included in the notification (column 4, lines 4-10).

Claim 112 discloses the apparatus of claim 107, wherein the web server is configured to incorporate camera image data into the web page. Venkatraman et al further teaches image data is displayed (column 4, lines 4-10).

Claim 113 discloses the apparatus of claim 107, further comprising a door position sensor. Hunter et al further teaches the use of contact sensors for a security system (column 9, lines 42-61).

Claim 114 discloses the apparatus of claim 113, wherein the alarm module is responsive to the door position sensor. Hunter et al further teaches the system sends a notification in response to the alarm system (column 6, lines 6-31).

Claims 94, 96, 99 and 101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beheshti et al (US Patent #5,995,946) in view of Venkatraman et al (US Patent #6,139,177) as applied to claims 93 and 98 above, and further in view of Hunter et al (US Patent #6,363,422).

Claim 94 discloses the apparatus of claim 93, further comprising audio circuitry configured to monitor auditory conditions and provide an audio signal. Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al teaches the limitations of claim 93 as recited above. It fails to teach comprising audio circuitry configured to monitor auditory conditions and provide an audio signal. Hunter et al teaches a security system with video cameras which includes microphones (column 9, lines 42-61).

Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al and Hunter et al are analogous art because they are both related to remote device management.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the sensors in Hunter et al with the system in Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al because remote operations through the Internet for facilities management is provided (Hunter, column 1, lines 6-9, and column 3, lines 20-33).

Claim 96 discloses the apparatus of claim 93, further comprising a camera. Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al teaches the limitations of claim 93 as recited

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above. It fails to teach comprising a camera. Hunter et al teaches including a camera (column 9, lines 42-61).

Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al and Hunter et al are analogous art because they are both related to remote device management.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the camera feature in Hunter et al with the system in Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al because remote operations through the Internet for facilities management is provided (Hunter, column 1, lines 6-9, and column 3, lines 20-33).

Claim 99 discloses the apparatus of claim 98, further comprising audio circuitry configured to monitor auditory conditions and provide an audio signal. Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al teaches the limitations of claim 98 as recited above. It fails to teach comprising audio circuitry configured to monitor auditory conditions and provide an audio signal. Hunter et al teaches a security system with video cameras which includes microphones (column 9, lines 42-61).

Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al and Hunter et al are analogous art because they are both related to remote device management.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the sensors in Hunter et al with the system in Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al because remote operations through the Internet for facilities management is provided (Hunter, column 1, lines 6-9, and column 3, lines 20-33).

Claim 101 discloses the apparatus of claim 98, further comprising a camera.

Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al teaches the limitations of claim 93 as recited above. It fails to teach comprising a camera. Hunter et al teaches including a camera (column 9, lines 42-61).

Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al and Hunter et al are analogous art because they are both related to remote device management.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the camera feature in Hunter et al with the system in Beheshti et al in view of Venkatraman et al because remote operations through the Internet for facilities management is provided (Hunter, column 1, lines 6-9, and column 3, lines 20-33).

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir.

1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claim 1 is rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,714,977. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claim 1 covers the scope of claim 1 in U.S. Patent 6,714,977.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Chong (US Patent #6,529,230) teaches of a security control system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Gillis whose telephone number is (571)272-7952. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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